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BOOK REVIEWS

Jewish Contributions to Civilization: An Estimate. By *Joseph Jacobs*. Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia. pp. 323.

This posthumous book by one of the most learned and brilliant of the Jews who migrated to the United States from Europe in the last years of the last century has a value for all who wish to know what the Jew thinks of himself in sober and critical moments. Much in the volume also sheds light on the respective relations of church and synagogue, the Papacy and the Dispersion, to customs in commerce and industry against which the ethical convictions of Christians and Jews are now arrayed. The reader also will find material for reflection on the respective merits of nationalism and internationalism, as he notes the experience of Jewry with Rome and the other great centers of political power, not omitting Berlin and London. The author died before he had had a chance to study the same force operating in Washington.

To the reader of the *ADVOCATE*, however, the specially pertinent portions of the book will be those that have to do with the relation of the Jewish money-lender to the warring kings of the past, and the rôle the Jew now plays in "high finance" as that agency impinges upon and often controls the issues of war-making and war-checking. As one reads the record of the service rendered to the heads of the courts of Germany, Austria, and other mid-European countries by the "Hof-Juden" millionaires, by which the war-loan system was fastened on Europe as it never otherwise could or would have been, one is more readily reconciled to the fact that it is from the ranks of the radical Jewish proletariat of the Europe of today that some of the ablest and most unyielding champions of abolition of war come. It is a sort of racial atonement. An interesting detail that the author does not comment upon, but which is significant, is this, namely, the founder of the famous Rothschild family was the "Hof-Jude" of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, then the richest sovereign of Germany, whose fortune had been derived in part from moneys received from Great Britain for Hessians used in the vain effort to put down the revolt against George I in the American colonies. This blood-money Rothschild aided the Landgrave in investing in city bonds and in the Danish state loans.

The War and Preaching. By *Rev. John Kelman*. Yale University Press, New Haven. Pp. 213. \$1.25.

This collection of lectures delivered before the School of Religions, Yale University, last winter, by the pastor of St. George's Free Church, Edinburgh, has double interest now, because Dr. Kelman this autumn takes up the pastorate of a leading Presbyterian church in New York City, and for a time at least, and possibly permanently, will be an important factor in the American religious world. He early made a reputation as a preacher with a sense of literary values and an interest in things of the mind. Later he shared in reconstruction of the Free Church of Scotland. During the war he has been at the front and been formally honored by the British Government for his valor and good will. This book, therefore, is based on a war experience, both personal and reportorial.

He is one of those who believes that "Today, more than in any day of the past, the promise is being fulfilled, 'Behold, I make all things new'"; and hence he believes that the preaching for such an age, to be effective, "must be sensitive to the metamorphoses of the swiftly changing time. . . . It must, if it is to be taken seriously as a living force, be adventurous and daring." While he thinks that there is much loose talk about the failure of the church and too much of it from critics who know least about the church based on personal knowledge, nevertheless he admits that the status of the church in the community now is very different from what it was in the past. "The intellect of large numbers of men is not commanded by her reasonings, nor is their conscience convinced that her denunciations are authentic thunder." He concedes that study of the soldiers at the front has revealed that for large numbers of men the church

is only a "great organized unreality," toward which they have no feeling of hatred, but only indifference.

The merits of this volume are its vision and its candor, its right valuation of the respective claims of the past and the future on contemporary shapers of the life of church and synagogue, and its frank proclamation of sympathy with the clamorous demands of the laity for a reformation of the church that will draw into it those who now are indifferent and draw back to it persons of highest character and profoundest social passion, who find it, as at present constituted, an inadequate instrument for their most consecrated service.

Where is God in the World War? By *Robert L. Owen*. The Century Co., New York City. Pp. 53. 60 cents.

Oklahoma's junior Senator in the national legislature finds God very active in the Great War as an undeviating administrator of justice to peoples who had sinned against him on all law. This booklet is written wholly from the Old Testament, Mosaic point of view; and Jesus is not mentioned, nor the implications of his ethical teachings and his Gospel considered.

Germany's New War Against America. By *Stanley Frost*. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York City. Pp. 190. \$2.00 net.

A sketchily constructed and somewhat hectic arraignment of Germany's ante-war, war, and post-war commercial and financial designs against the United States, based on evidence furnished chiefly by officials of the Alien Property Custodian Bureau and endorsed by them as proper to publish now, if the American public is to be suitably educated in national vigilance. The author calls for revision of the tariff to meet the menace of German competition, and continuance in times of peace of the import license system as a flexible and sure method of meeting contingencies as they arise.

Looking Before and After: Some War Time Essays. By *Clay MacCauley*. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Yokohama, Hongkong, Shanghai, Singapore.

Dr. MacCauley, one of the veteran American educators and clergymen resident in Japan and for many years president of the American Peace Society of Japan, has assembled in this book of essays some of his writings dealing with international affairs. Historical research and idealistic interpretations of contemporary conditions due to the defeat of the Hohenzollerns, the overthrow of the Russian autocracy and bureaucracy and the emergence of the United States as a major factor in international affairs, mingle in these writings. The book was issued in May. Whether the author would be quite as optimistic now as he was then is doubtful, for with all his optimism and altruism he knows a fact when he sees it; and he must now realize that among other things he has to do personally is to save Japan from a national policy quite as sure to arraign the world against her as was Prussia's policy for Germany.

German Social Democracy During the War. By *Edward Beran*. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York City., \$2.50 net.

An Englishman's interpretation, based on what he admits to be necessarily imperfect data, the book (to quote words which he cites with approval) is "strongly marked with provisionality"—a clever phrase, to be credited to T. K. Cheyne, of lamented memory. Moreover, it only covers the period down to November, 1917; and much water has gone under the bridge since then, and Germany is now a socialist republic. Nevertheless, the book is meritorious and will be serviceable until replaced by another or by a new edition, in which the gaps unfilled here are closed with the new information that altered conditions have made accessible. Now that light is being shed on war origins and war aims, and now that under defeat a coalition of Socialists and Centrists is responsible for the national future, the nation's historians may again write with something like their former subjectivity and thoroughness, and non-German investigators may count on access to more of the fundamental documents in the case than were to be had prior to the armistice.